

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I believe Senate Bill 1403 will remove a significant barrier to providing dental care to children under the age of four and patients with developmental disabilities enrolled in the Medi-Cal program. SB 1403 is consistent with clinical standards of practice and responsive to the special challenges these patients present to dentists.

Children under the age of four and persons with developmental disabilities constitute approximately sixteen percent of Medi-Cal enrollees. While I am signing this bill to improve access to necessary services for young children and persons with developmental disabilities enrolled in the Medi-Cal program, I believe strong oversight is needed to assure it does not result in unintended outcomes. Given well-documented prior instances of fraud in the Medi-Cal dental program, I am directing the Department of Health Services to closely monitor this program. If through its monitoring, the department detects improper utilization or fraud as a result of this bill, I direct the department to take immediate action to limit inappropriate utilization of these services.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger